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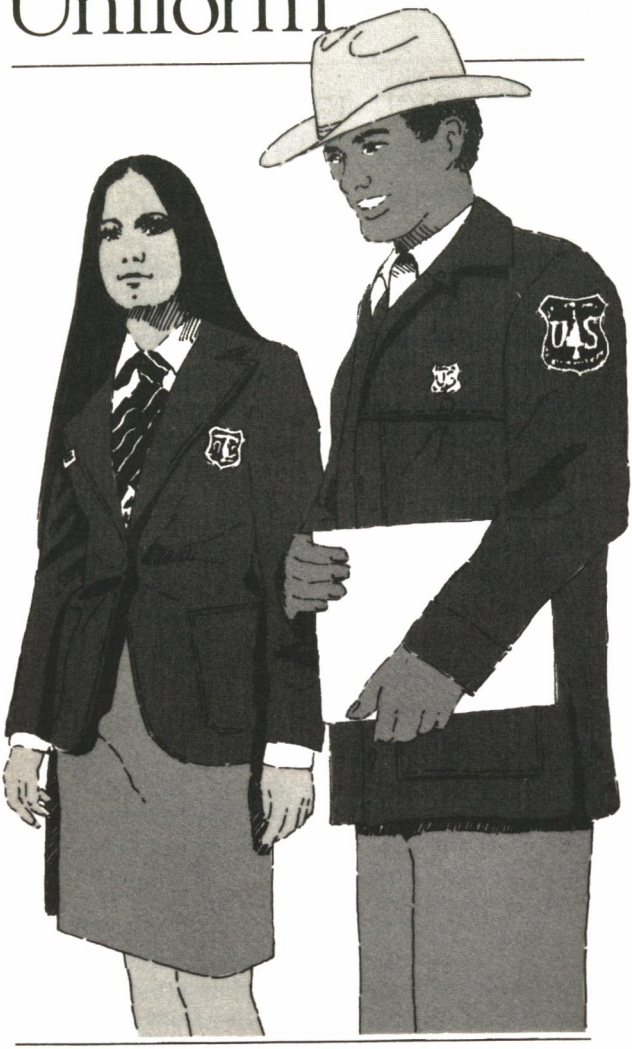
Your Forest Service Uniform



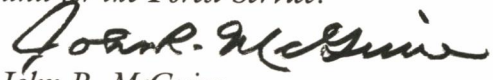
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
FS-322

To the men and women who wear the Forest Service uniform:

This booklet describes the accepted standards for the use of the uniforms and insignia.

Wearing the uniform helps identify the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a distinctive organization with a long record of fine public service. Our uniform and insignia are symbols of the Forest Service, its responsibilities, competence, and devotion to duty.

For you whose work brings you into daily or frequent contact with the public, wearing the uniform is both an obligation and a privilege. When worn correctly and with dignity and pride, the uniform promotes respect for you and for the Forest Service.



John R. McGuire
Chief, Forest Service

Your Forest Service Uniform

Purpose of a Service Uniform

"The use of the Service uniforms tends toward economy, efficiency and dignity of the Service, and they are adapted to the needs of work. Moreover, they distinguish Forest Officers from civilians and awaken in the public a proper respect for the Service and its organization. The Forester heartily approves them." This statement was made by Associate Forester Albert F. Potter in a memorandum to Forest Officers in 1910. Down through the years, every Chief has felt very much the same about the uniform. Today the uniform is worn for the primary purpose of helping the public become aware of the active role played by Forest Service Officers as public servants. The uniform is a symbol of the Forest Service and should be worn with dignity and pride to identify the employee as a Forest Service representative in the following contacts or work situations.

1. In carrying out resource administration or regulatory activities when this involves contact with the public.
2. In carrying out Visitor Information Service (VIS) and other activities that bring the employee into contact with the public.
3. Other activities requiring identification of an employee as an official of the Forest Service, i.e. law enforcement, YCC, YACC, etc.
4. Activities that may particularly require promotion of unity of purpose and esprit de corps.

Who is Required to Own a Uniform?

To ensure Servicewide uniformity, all line officers in the National Forest System, Directors, and Area Directors, are required to own and wear a dress uniform. Supervisory and training staff of Job Corps, Youth Conservation Corps, and Young Adult Conservation Corps are required to own and wear the field uniform. The Chief, Deputy Chiefs, Regional Foresters, Station and Area Directors will designate all other positions, based on the objectives, that require owning and wearing a Forest Service uniform. They shall also specify the uniform(s) required for each position — for example, dress or field uniform and any specific additional components.

The incumbent of any full-time, part-time, or temporary position that carries out the uniform objectives and is required to own and wear a uniform, is authorized a uniform allowance.

Who Else May Wear the Uniform

Any employee, even though not in an authorized position, may purchase and wear the official uniform. Retirees who have previously been required to own and wear the uniform may continue to wear it. These employees will not be entitled to a uniform allowance. The uniform must be worn in accordance with FSM (Forest Service Manual) 6159.43c.

What to Wear and When to Wear It

The Forest Service has three basic uniforms: dress, field (including winter sports), and lifeguard. Within the limitations of these uniform regulations, the following personnel shall issue instructions specifying the conditions, locations, and circumstances when the uniform will and will not be worn, after consultation with supervisors, employees, and employee organizations as appropriate.

a. The Deputy Chief for Administration for Washington Office employees.

b. Regional Foresters and Directors for their employees.

The uniform required to be worn shall be based on the actual demands of the job and the nature of the public contact. Some employees, because of the diverse nature of their positions, may be required to own and wear more than one uniform plus authorized winter work components.

The dress uniform is required when the contact with the public is formal or ceremonial. The field uniform is required when the contact with the public is informal or field oriented. Either the dress or field uniform is required for those in VIS work, the choice depending on the work circumstance, i.e., office or field type activities.

The winter work components are required for employees assigned to administration of resources involving contact with the public during the winter or cold weather and for personnel (snow rangers) administering winter sports sites.

All employees engaged in law enforcement duties involving contact with the public will be dressed in a complete official uniform while on law enforcement duty unless engaged in an undercover assignment or conducting an investigation, where wearing the uniform would be detrimental. Lifeguard uniforms are required when employees are assigned to lifeguard duty at Forest Service beaches.

Appearance and Uniformity

Those required to wear the uniform shall wear it as prescribed in the authorization. Employees are expected to maintain the appearance of the uniform and to wear it in a manner that reflects credit on themselves and on the Forest Service. Only approved items shall be worn. Exceptions are permitted for such circumstances as medical reasons or climatic conditions. See FSM 6159.45 and .46 for specifications as to required uniform components. The hat, turtle neck sweater, and wool cruiser coat (as an overcoat) may be worn with the dress or field uniform. Dress uniform com-

ponents that may be worn with the field uniform are the tie, dress trousers, and shirt in *nonfire situations*. The field uniform wearers will be required to own cotton uniform shirts and trousers. Neither mixing of uniform components with civilian clothing nor wearing worn, frayed, or outmoded uniform components is permitted. Shoulder patches, nameplates, and badges should be worn in the locations indicated herein.

Retired employees may wear the insignia previously authorized — except the badge for their uniform. Except for optional or personal expense items, each component of the uniform listed under FSM 6159.46e must be from the authorized manufacturer(s) and conform to current uniform specifications as to material, design, quality, color, and workmanship. Employees should not accept delivery of, or wear, nonstandard components.

The Uniform of Yesterday

The uniform was adopted shortly after the badge. The wide-brimmed hat became a characteristic feature and was long associated by the public with the Forest Service. At present, this kind of hat is perpetuated by Smokey the forest five prevention bear, who still wears it.

Breeches were also regulation, but were later replaced by regular trousers. A less conspicuous hat was adopted. In the 1920's, Forest Officers and employees assigned to field duty wore a half-Norfolk coat. A green vest was optional. In 1934, a distinctive uniform fabric of bronze heather-green was developed especially for the Forest Service. Shortly after WWI, special metal buttons were made for our uniforms. In 1978, the dies for these were discovered intact and are now being used to make buttons for our dress uniform blazers.

The Bronze Badge: History and Use

After the National Forests had been transferred to the Department of Agriculture in 1905, a competition was held among Forest Service members in Washington, D. C., to design a new badge. The judges were Gifford Pinchot, Chief; Overton W. Price, Deputy Chief; and E. T. Allen, who had become one of our first Rangers in 1898.

The first contest yielded no acceptable design, so a second contest was considered. In the meantime, at a railroad station in Missoula, Mont., Mr. Allen traced and lettered a conventional shield on a cigarette paper while William C. Hodge, his traveling companion, contributed a drawing of a conifer. The idea was submitted and accepted. Thus was born the badge that has since been displayed by rangers of the Forest Service. Since 1905, this bronze badge feature — a firlike tree in the center of a shield — has served to identify the Federal agency responsible for protecting, managing, and developing the National Forests, for carrying on forest and range research, and for providing leadership in cooperative forestry. It has been worn by Forest Service men engaged in these activities. It has also been used on posters, signs, and correspondence, as a mark on Forest Service property, and for many other purposes associated with Forest Service responsibilities.

This emblem is designated as the official Forest Service insignia. This design is used on our uniform patches.

The badge is well proportioned and attractive, and suggests the work of the Forest Service. Forest users and the public recognize it as a symbol of our organization. To men of the Service, it represents courage, pride, and honor as well as competence in the forests, on the range, or wherever duty may send them.

Our Current Men's and Women's Dress Uniform

The dress uniform for full-time employees consists of the following items, which form the basis of the uniform allowance: blazer, skirt or slacks, trousers, shirt and tie. The hat (felt or straw) is optional and when authorized earns allowance. Brown belt, brown shoes, green socks with slacks or trousers, are required but do not earn allowance. Rain coat, raincover for

hats, turtleneck sweater, white shirt or blouse and belt buckle with Forest Service insignia, hat (felt or straw) are optional items at personal expense. The badge, patch and nameplate are required and are furnished by the Forest Service.

Our Current Men's and Women's Field Uniform

The field uniform for full-time employees consists of the following items, which form the basis of the uniform allowance: field cruiser coat, trousers, shirt, tie, and cap. The hat (felt or straw) is optional and when authorized earns allowance. Brown belt, brown shoes, and green socks are required but do not earn allowance. Rain coat, raincover for hats, turtleneck sweater, white shirt or blouse and belt buckle with Forest Service insignia are optional items at personal expense. The badge patch and nameplate are required and furnished by the Forest Service.

The field uniform for seasonal employees is the same as for regular employees except that a field jacket is authorized instead of the field cruiser coat.

Winter Work Components

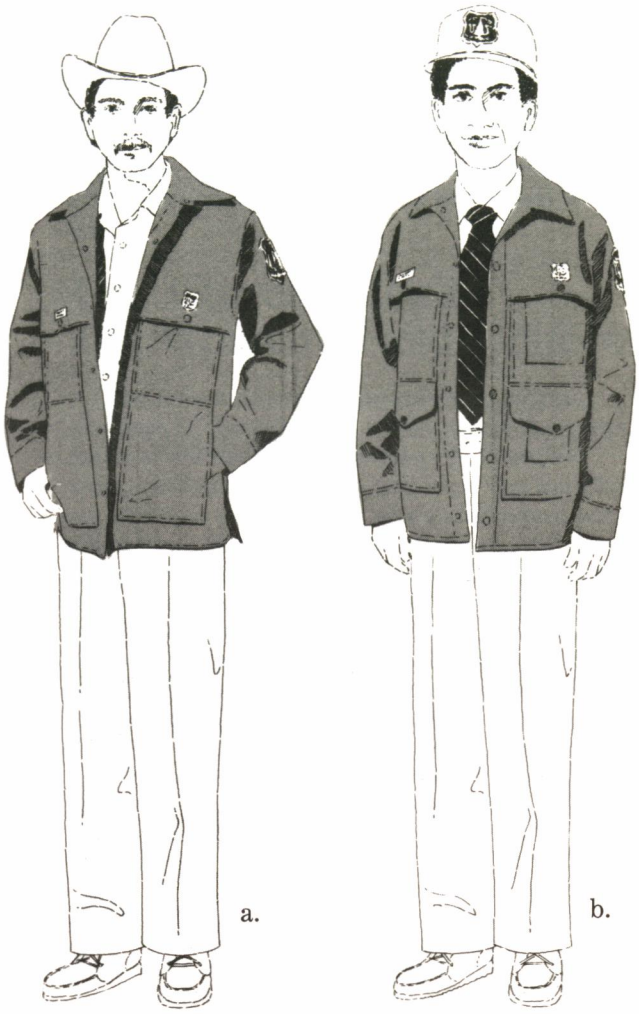
An employee who is authorized the dress or field uniform may be authorized one or more work components that earn replacement allowances. See FSM 6159 for more detailed information.

Our Lifeguard Uniform

The lifeguard uniform consists of the following components which form the basis of the uniform allowance: jacket, swim suit, T-shirt, shoes, hat, and whistle. The lifeguard uniform will be worn at all times when on official duty as a lifeguard on Forest Service beaches.

Authorized Manufacturers

A list of manufacturers that have been authorized to manufacture uniform components is shown in FSM 6159.46e. Some sources of supply are also listed in the manual for the convenience of the employee.

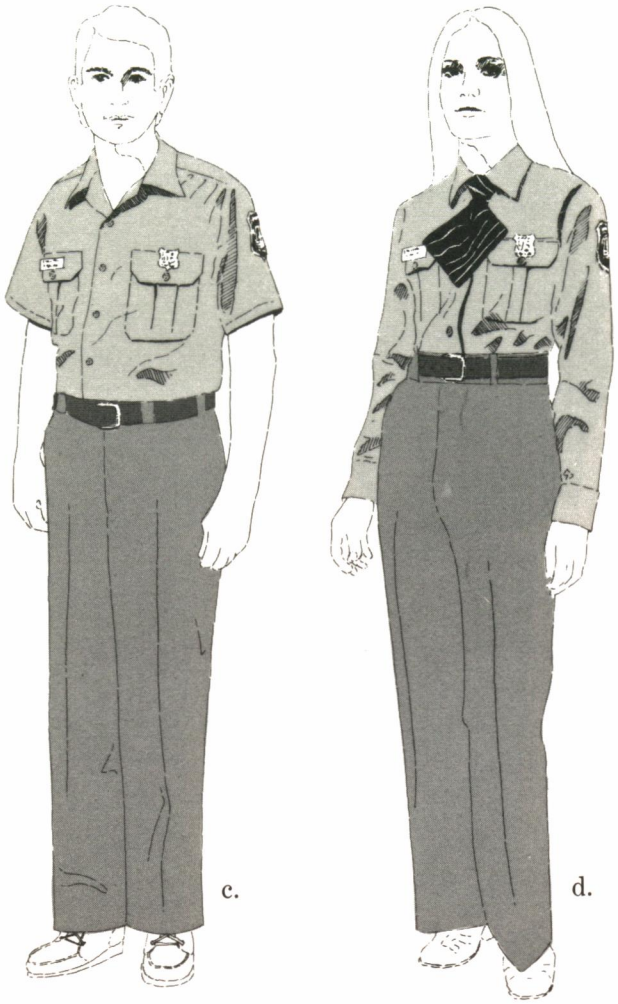


a. All-Cotton Field Jacket (10 oz.)

for employees not needing the extra front and full back that are standard on the field cruiser coat. This jacket is a basic item for seasonal employees.

b. Field Cruiser Coat

designed for the employees needing pockets inside, outside, front, and back. This basic item for the full-time employee's field uniform is all cotton made from 10 oz. army duck material.



c. Informal Field Uniform

consisting of 100 percent cotton shirt and trousers. Cap or Western style felt or straw hat may be worn. Polyester-cotton shirts and polyester-wool trousers used in the dress uniform may be as part of the field uniform only in nonfire situations. Wearing the tie is optional with both short and long sleeve shirts.

d. Women's Uniform

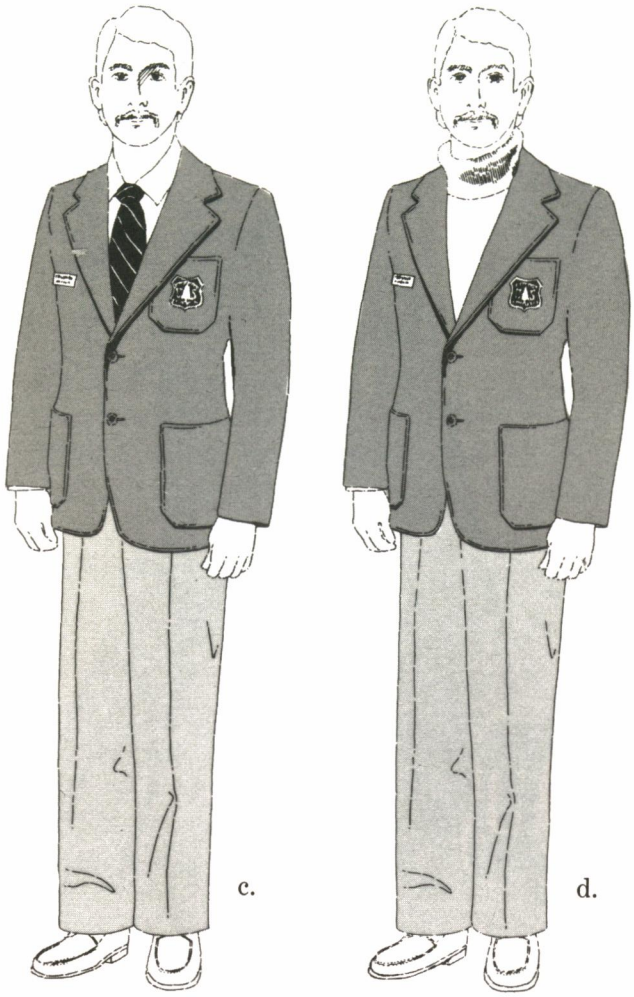
without coat or blazer. A plain white blouse may be worn with the nameplate as the only insignia.

a. Heavy Wool Cruiser-Coat

for cold weather use as a field uniform coat or as a dress uniform overcoat. May be authorized in lieu of the cotton cruiser if climate and work conditions require it.

b. Wool Field Jacket (21 oz.)

for those not needing full cruiser coat pockets. For colder climates where the cotton cruiser coat or field jacket is inadequate. Provides good all around use in moderate climates. May be authorized in lieu of the cotton cruiser coat or field jacket.

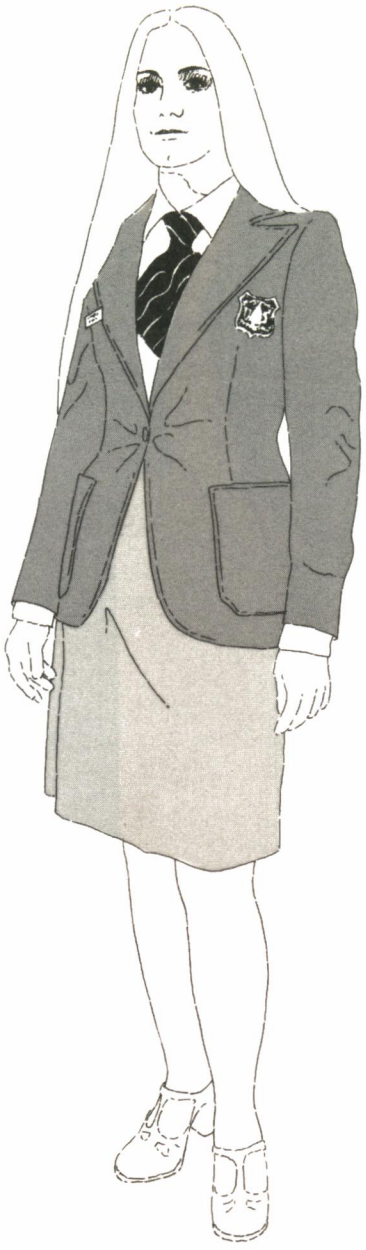


c. Dress Uniform

with all required components. White shirt may also be worn when appropriate. Nameplate is optional.

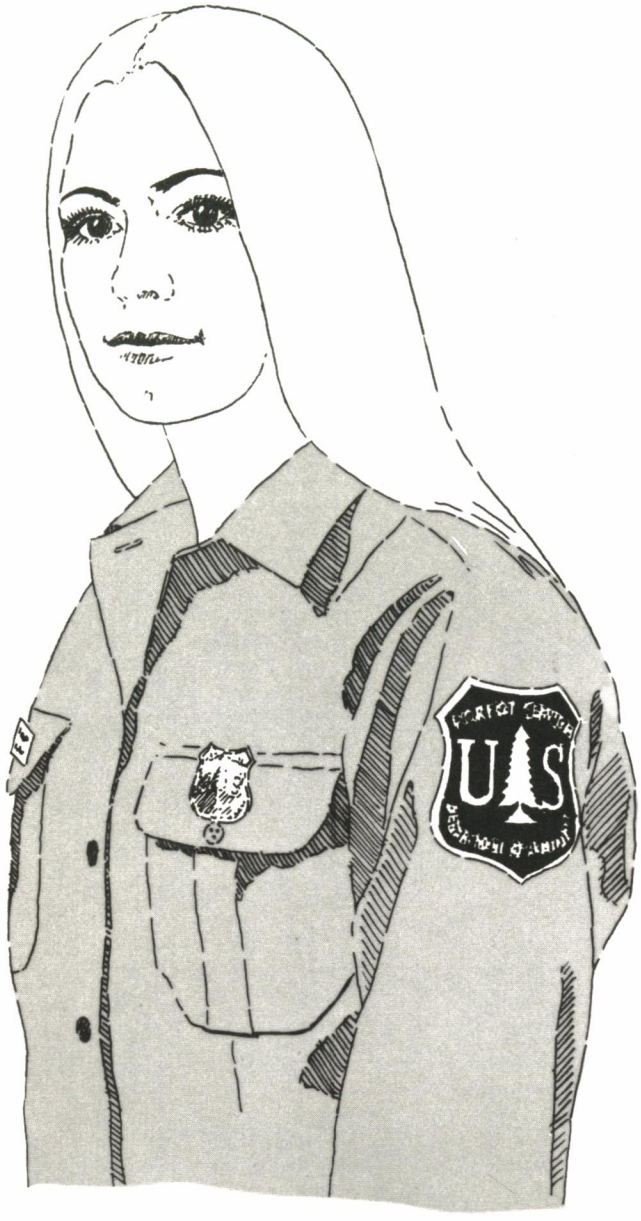
d. Dress Uniform

with optional turtleneck sweater. The bone colored sweater may be worn either with field or dress uniforms. It is optional at personal expense.



Dress Uniform for Women

may be worn with skirt or slacks and with or without tie. Plain white blouse is optional. Insignia for the blazer is the small patch on left front; use of the nameplate is optional.



Standard Insignia

worn on all uniform shirts, field cruiser coats, and field jackets. Nameplate is centered on right pocket flap, the badge is centered on the left pocket flap, and the large patch is centered 2 inches below the shoulder seam.

September 1978